

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVENUE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room W140 West Office Building, State Capitol Complex

February 6, 2008

Members Present: Sen. Bill Hickman, Co-Chairman
Rep. Sheryl Allen, Co-Chairman
Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro

Members Excused: Sen. Dan Eastman

Staff Present: Dr. Andrea Wilko, Chief Economist
Dr. Thomas Young, Economist
Jennifer Eyring, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Allen called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Rep. Painter spoke in behalf of the Peteetneet Academy in Payson, Utah. A request was made for \$25,000 for updating the elevator.

Rep. Painter also spoke in behalf of the Juab County Veterans' Memorial Fund. The memorial will recognize all Veterans from Juab County.

Rep. Noel spoke in behalf of the Western Legends Roundup. A request was made for \$30,000 for advertising and to reinstate the historic wagon trek.

Rep. Noel introduced Dan Losee, Architect, Tropic Heritage Center. Dan Losee explained the project to move Ebenezer Bryce's cabin to the site of the Heritage Center. A request was made for \$84,000 to move and prepare the cabin for use.

Cynthia Buckingham, Executive Director, Utah Humanities Council, introduced Jan Bennett, Jon Weisberg, Chair, and Allen Brown, from the Utah Humanities Council Board. The purpose and programs of the Council were explained. The Council is requesting an increase of \$150,000 in ongoing funding.

Rep. Dee introduced Kori Ann Edwards, Vice-President, Logistics Specialties Inc., and Director, UBiDS, who provided an overview of the UBiDS purpose and accomplishments. Rose Ashby, CEO, Ashco Enterprises, spoke about the assistance she received from the Utah Procurement Assistance Program in obtaining government contracts, and encouraged continued funding for UBiDS. Sen. Killpack spoke in support of the UBiDS program and the benefit it provides for the entire state of Utah.

Rep. Dee introduced Matthew Godfrey, Ogden City Mayor. Mr. Godfrey explained the economic development and revitalization plan for the downtown neighborhoods in Ogden. A request was made for \$1,000,000 to be used in conjunction with city funding.

Rep. Johnson introduced the Reach Out and Read program and Dr. Wendy Hobson-Rohrer, Medical Director for the program. Dr. Hobson-Rohrer explained the program that promotes early literacy through pediatric primary care visits. A request for \$225,000 was made to support the program. Rep. Biskupski added her support.

Sen. Stowell, accompanied by Rep. Bowman, introduced Fred Adams, Founding Director, Utah Shakespearean Festival. Mr. Adams discussed the economic impact of the Festival and the need to construct a new theater.

Sen. Stowell spoke about the Disadvantaged Rural Communities program. The program was last funded in 2005. Communities may apply for grants through the Governor's Rural Partnership Board. A request was made for \$500,000 to be added to the program.

Rep. Cosgrove spoke in behalf of the Working Family Economic Development Initiative. The Initiative promotes a partnership between public and private entities in educating citizens about the Earned Income Tax Credit. A request was made for \$100,000 ongoing funds. Heather Tritton and Paul Leggett of the Utah Community Action Partnership Association were introduced. Heather Tritton discussed what the program has accomplished.

Rep. Bird spoke in behalf of the West Jordan Sugar Factory Playhouse and introduced Nola Duncan, Chair, Sugar Factory Committee. Nola Duncan explained the plans to renovate the old Utah and Idaho Sugar Factory buildings for a performing arts and education center. Funding was requested to help with seismic work and asbestos abatement.

Rep. Bowman spoke in behalf of the World War II Veterans' Memorial. The memorial would contain the names of all WWII Veterans from Iron County. A request was made for \$25,000.

Rep. Allen spoke about HB 135 "Grants From Department of Community and Culture" which she sponsored. The bill would increase grants through the Department for history, libraries, museums and arts. It would also provide that appointed boards would help with the prioritization of grants and funding requests.

Sen. Knudsen spoke in behalf of Ballet West's Capital campaign. Ballet West is planning a new building to house the company and academy next to the Capitol Theater. A request was made for \$1,000,000.

Sen. Davis spoke in behalf of the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy, and requested a \$53,000 one-time appropriation. Laura Dupuy, Executive Director, Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy, explained the role of the Council in building relationships with emerging leaders of other nations. Dave Winder, Board, Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy, spoke about the benefits to the state in building these relationships. Questions from the committee were discussed.

Sen. Peterson spoke about the Twelve Mile Canyon Water Quality problems that began with a landslide on Federal lands and continue to cause problems for local community water systems. A request was made for \$150,000.

Bill Boyle spoke in behalf of the Canyon Country Discovery Center and acknowledged the many supporters from San Juan County and GOED who were in attendance. The Center is an economic development project that partners with many entities in the area, including the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education. Janet Ross, Executive Director, Four Corners School, made a request for \$1,300,000 as found in the Governor's Budget. Rep. King added strong support for the Center and requested consideration for rural Utah.

President Valentine spoke on behalf of the Freedom Festival in Provo. The Festival is the largest 4th of July celebration in the United States. A request was made for \$500,000 for the education and outreach programs included in the Festival. Questions from the committee were addressed.

Rep. Draxler spoke in behalf of the George S. Eccles Ice Center. It is the only non-profit ice center in the state and is used by the USU hockey team, school districts and the public. A request was made for \$500,000 one-time funds. Liz Wright, Program Director, answered questions concerning funding.

Rep. Fisher moved to approve the minutes for January 24, January 28, and January 30, 2008. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sen. Van Tassell spoke in behalf of the Heber Valley Railroad. A Federal grant has been awarded to refurbish a steam engine. A request was made for \$100,000 for new jacks to be used in the project. Craig Lacey, Executive Director, Heber Valley Railroad, further explained the safety reasons for the new jacks. Questions from the committee were addressed.

Rep. Shurtliff spoke in behalf of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and requested \$100,000 for the capital campaign for the land and building. Nate Pierce, Chair, Ogden Pioneer Heritage Foundation Board, gave background and project progress. Wynn Covio, Executive Director, Ogden Pioneer Heritage Foundation, stated the Hall of Fame would be an interpretive center that would honor people past and present who have contributed to the western lifestyle.

Rep. Webb spoke in behalf of the American West Heritage Center and gave an overview of the history and economic benefit of the Center. A request was made for a \$250,000 annually for operational support and upgrades. Paul Norton, Chair, American West Heritage Board, and Steve DeLong, Executive Director, American West Heritage Center were introduced. Paul Norton expressed thanks for previous funding and feels that there is great economic potential.

Sen. Madsen spoke about the need for better inventory and documentation of State owned art collections through the Department of Community and Culture. Funding for the inventory was requested.

Sen. Madsen explained the need and benefits of a State Trade Database. The database would include businesses who engage in international trade. The centralized information would help agencies better serve the businesses.

Sen. Madsen introduced Mike Washburn, President and CEO, Thanksgiving Point, and expressed support for the funding request. Mike Washburn spoke about the economic impact and educational opportunities associated with Thanksgiving Point. Funding is being requested for the Museum of Natural Curiosity, a new children's museum. A request was made for \$2,000,000 from the Legislature.

Rep. Allen relinquished the chair to Sen. Hickman.

Rep. Oda spoke in behalf of the Hill Air Force Base Show. A new private non-profit foundation has been set up to organize the air show. Rep. Fisher added her support and expressed that they had received good support from Legislators from around the state. A request was made for \$120,000 one-time funds.

Rep. Fisher introduced Vaughn Jacobsen, Chair, Antelope Island Balloon Stampede. A request was made for \$20,000. Other sponsors and volunteers were acknowledged and the goals of the Balloon Stampede were outlined. Questions were answered about the partnership with State Parks.

Rep. Clark introduced Jon Hafen, Tuacahn Center Board of Directors, who gave an overview of the funding and economic impact of the Tuacahn Center for the Arts. A funding request was made.

Rep. Clark introduced Jan Broberg, Executive Director, St. George Musical Theater. The benefits of the community theater and plans for a new building were discussed. A request was made for \$500,000 to build a new permanent home for the community theater.

Rep. Clark explained the funding request for the Southern Utah Shooting Sports Park. A request was made for \$250,000 one-time funding.

Rep. Hughes spoke about the Pete Suazo Athletic Commission which sanctions boxing and other mixed martial arts events. The sport is growing in Utah. A request was made for \$100,000.

Sen. Hickman relinquished the chair to Rep. Allen.

Rep. Kiser spoke in behalf of the Restaurant Advertising program. The funding requested helps all restaurants in the state. Melva Sine, Utah Restaurant Association, reported the advertising funding has been successful. Neil Wilkinson, Temple Square Hospitality Association, discussed the growth of dining in the state. Tom Guinney, Gastronomy Inc., spoke about restaurant marketing. Greg Gruber, Utah Restaurant Association Board, added his support for the advertising program funding.

Rep. McIff introduced Scott Wyatt, President of Snow College, and explained the desire to use the Sevier Valley Center classroom wing on the Snow College Richfield Campus for expansion of the Nursing and Allied Health programs. President Wyatt spoke about the benefits of the current expansion opportunity.

Rep. McIff spoke in behalf of the Casino Star Theater restoration and rehabilitation project. A request was made for \$100,000. Questions from the committee about the effects of a recent gasoline leak were addressed.

Sen Jenkins explained about the Swanson Foundation and the Swanson Tactical Training Center. A request was made for \$2,000,000 to complete the center which gives specialized training to police forces.

Sen. Dmitrich requested \$5,000 for the Women's High School Athletics golf program.

Sen. Dmitrich spoke about the Moab Film Festival and requested \$50,000 for the Festival.

Sen. Dmitrich introduced Tina Lewis, Sundance Institute Board, and discussed the positive economic impact that the Festival has on the state. A request was made for \$500,000. Tina Lewis spoke about the economic value the Festival brings to the state and discussed the international exposure.

Rep. Barrus discussed energy development in the state, including oil shale and oil sands. A request has been made for \$12,000,000 for incentives and seed money to accelerate energy development. 1st Sub HB 58 "Severance Tax Amendments" was discussed.

Sen. Buttars spoke about Marv Jensen and Gene Fullmer and the effect they had in the area through boxing. A request was made for \$50,000 for the West Jordan Historic Museum. Linda Dalley, Director, West Jordan Historic Museum, described the boxing memorabilia and collections that would be placed in the museum.

Sen Knudsen spoke on Proctor and Gamble coming to Box Elder County and the associated water infrastructure needs. Jason Perry, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development, stated that this is a part of the overall project for Brigham City. Sen. Knudsen requested \$9,000,000 for water and sewer line infrastructure.

Rep. Allen spoke in behalf of This Is the Place State Park. Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City will each match Legislative funding. The request is for \$150,000 one-time funds.

Rep. Mascaro moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Allen adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Sen. Bill Hickman, Co-Chair

Rep. Sheryl L. Allen, Co-Chair